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**NCOIL ADOPTS CRITICAL BEST PRACTICES TO CURB OPIOID ABUSE,
PLANS ONGOING EFFORT**

Nashville, TN, November 24, 2013—With strong support from interested parties from around the country, legislators at the NCOIL Annual Meeting adopted unanimously a set of best practices to curb opioid abuse, misuse, and diversion. The best practices—designed to be a framework against which states may compare, expand, and enhance their own requirements—hone in on prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), physician prescribing practices, education and outreach, and treatment and prevention.

According to Workers' Compensation Insurance Committee Chair Rep. Bill Botzow (VT), who sponsored the best practices for discussion:

I am very proud of the work that NCOIL has done to develop these guidelines and believe that states struggling with the opioid epidemic now have a clear, common-sense checklist to use when developing their own standards. So many of us know someone affected by opioid abuse—this is a personal effort for us as individuals and a general effort as policymakers to protect our constituents.

Rep. Botzow noted that the best practices will evolve and expand over time in order to respond to state trends and needs and that legislators at the Nashville Annual Meeting expressed interest in, among other items, extending the guidelines' treatment and prevention section, offering additional recommendations regarding recovery, and considering the efficacy of different painkillers.

The *Best Practices to Address Opioid Abuse, Misuse & Diversion* also include expansive footnotes that identify issues that state legislators may wish to consider that are not specifically addressed in the body of the guidelines—including use of alternative treatments and third-party willingness to pay for them.

NCOIL adoption of the recommendations culminates the group's nearly two-year investigation into the causes and consequences of opioid abuse and follows input from numerous interested parties. Legislators approved the best practices during a joint Workers' Compensation Insurance and Health, LTC & Health Retirement Issues Committee meeting on November 22, followed by a November 24 Executive Committee vote.

In general, the NCOIL best practices address how to:

- establish, evaluate, and fund prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) that require real-time reporting
- create strong evidence-based prescribing standards that recognize "one-size-does-not-fit-all" and that crack down on "pill mill" pain clinics
- promote enhanced and effective education of physicians and the public, including opportunities for safe drug disposal
- pursue options for encouraging treatment and prevention, including use of certain drug treatments and of drug courts

Interested parties whose oral and/or written comments since early 2012 contributed to development of the best practices included:

- American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)
- American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)
- American Insurance Association (AIA)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
- Carnevale Associates LLC (John T. Carnevale, PhD)
- Coalition Against Insurance Fraud
- International Association of Industrial Accident Boards & Commissions (IAIABC)
- Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy
- Kentucky Office of the Governor
- National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL)
- National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)
- National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
- National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA)
- National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI)
- Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PhRMA)
- Property-Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI)
- Renee C.B. Manwarren, PhD, APRN, BC, PCNS-BC, Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- Work Loss Data Institute (WLDI)

NCOIL is an organization of state legislators whose main area of public policy interest is insurance legislation and regulation. Most legislators active in NCOIL either chair or are members of the committees responsible for insurance legislation in their respective state houses across the country. More information is available at www.ncoil.org.

For further details or for a copy of the best practices, please contact Candace Thorson in the NCOIL National Office at 518-687-0178 or at cthorsen@ncoil.org.

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